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DOCKET NO.: 3985
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR PATENT

OF: Rolf ESPE
SERIAL NO.: 09/810,283
FILED: March 16, 2001
FOR: Press Pad Containing Fluoroelastomer
or Fluorosilicone Elastomer

| Art Unit: 1771

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20231

May 31, 2001

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

- 1) Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98 applicant encloses a Form PTO-1449 and copies of the references listed thereon.
- 2) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the present application.
- 3) References AA, AB, AF and AG are in English. Reference AE corresponds to AF, from which its relevance can be determined in English. Therefore, no further discussion of these references is required.
- 4) References AD, AE and AG have been discussed in the specification at pages 2 to 4. No further discussion is required.
- 5) Reference AC (German Patent Laying-Open Document 23 38 749) discloses a flexible transport and pressing underlayment made of

a fiberglass woven web or fabric, in which the individual warp and weft threads, and/or the entire woven fabric, is impregnated or coated with a synthetic plastic that is stable and resistant to the temperatures existing during the pressing process, whereby the synthetic may comprise silicone rubber or Teflon, makes up to 30wt.% and preferably 10 to 15 wt.% of the total underlayment. In use, the web or fabric of the pressure pad is alternately subjected to high temperature and high pressure conditions, which result in alternating tension arising in the pad. The alternating "working" of the materials over time tends to break down the frictional bonding between the elongation resistant thread core made of metal or glass fiber and the resilient remaining thread material. Thus, the materials separate, and the pressure compensation pad suffers rapid wear and degradation.

- 6) Reference AH (German Utility Model Publication 296 19 737) discloses a pressure pad including a woven web or fabric made of a textile yarn including melamine resin fibers or thermoplastic fibers such as urea formaldehyde or phenol formaldehyde fibers that are flame resistant or essentially non-flammable and/or metal fibers.
- 7) Reference AI (German Patent Publication No. 197 09 644) discloses a press pad made with threads having a length-stable thread core and an elastic thread coating or cover bonded to the core. The thread core is made from aromatic polyamide and/or a thermoplastic and/or pre-oxidized polyacrylonitrile and/or polyimide and/or polybenzidazole and/or aramide. The thread coating or cover is made from rubber and/or silicone elastomer and/or polytetrafluoroethylene. A metal powder may be added to the thread coating or cover, preferably with a silicone elastomer: metal powder mixture with a weight ratio from 90:10 to 40:60.
- 8) References AD, AE, AG and AI were categorized in relevance category "Y", documents which in the enclosed German Search

Report issued in the counterpart German Application place the inventiveness in question when combined with other documents.

- 9) Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider all references of record, return an initialled copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and ensure that all references of record are printed on any patent issuing from this application.
- 10) Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1 to 18 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Rolf ESPE
Applicant

WFF:ar/3985
Enclosure: postcard,
Form PTO-1449,
9 references, copy
of German Search Report

By 
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all enclosures is being mailed on May 31, 2001 as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231.

Anita Morse - May 31, 2001
Anita Morse - May 31, 2001